

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard L. Kaiser on April 10, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

in line 1 of claim 28 "18" has been changed --19--.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on February 1, 2006, April 10, 2006, May 5, 2006, July 6, 2006 and March 6, 2007 have been considered by the examiner.

Prior Art Citation

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 1,434,970 A (Taylor), US 2,291,151 A (Dunn), US 6,092,635 A (McCarthy et al.) and US 6,557,680 B2 (Williams) each show clutches having rollers received between first and second races having a plurality of ridges.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-40 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art shows or renders obvious a selectable mode clutch including the races, rollers and control member arranged together in the manner specified in claim 1, and particularly wherein a projection is integrally formed with one of the races; the control member includes first and second receiving portions; and one of the control member and the projection is movable along the central axis relative to the other of the control member and the projection between a first position, in which the projection is positioned in the first receiving portion to operate the clutch in a first mode, and a second position, in which the projection is positioned in the second receiving portion to operate the clutch in a second mode different from the first mode.

Claims 2-18 each depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

None of the prior art shows or renders obvious a clutch assembly including a selectable mode clutch including first and second races, rollers and a control member, in combination with an actuator as specified in claim 19, and particularly wherein a projection is integrally formed with one of the races; the control member includes first and second receiving portions; and the actuator is operable to move one of the control member and the projection along the central axis relative to the other of the control member and the projection between a first position, in which the projection is positioned in the first receiving portion to operate the clutch in a first mode, and a second position,

in which the projection is positioned in the second receiving portion to operate the clutch in a second mode different from the first mode.

Claims 19-40 each depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (571) 272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:30AM to 7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard M. Lorence/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3681